

REMARKS

Based on the amendments above, claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-33, and 35 are pending. Claims 1, 17, and 25 are the independent claims.

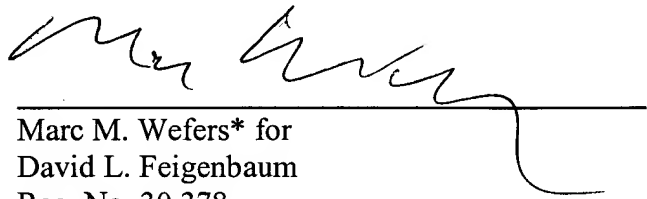
We acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 10-14, 20-24, and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To expedite allowance and without conceding the merits of the prior art rejection, we have amended independent claims 1, 17, and 25 to include the limitations of allowable claims 10, 20, and 34, respectively. Accordingly, we ask that the application be allowed.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 12259-099001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

12/6/04



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***See attached document certifying that Marc M. Wefers has limited recognition to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 37 C.F.R. § 11.9(b).**